



# PRESS RELEASE

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April 20, 2007

2007-005

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## **NEW PROGRAM LAUNCHED ON EARTH DAY**

**SAN SALVADOR**— The U.S. Embassy, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN) commemorated Earth Day this morning at the Cerro Verde Mountain Hotel and officially launched the USAID Improved Management and Conservation of Critical Watersheds project.

The project promotes the conservation of biodiversity and the creation of incentives and incomes through environmentally sustainable practices. USAID's support amounts to \$7,800,000 for a three-year period. The project is situated in several municipalities of Ahuachapan and Sonsonate where the El Imposible-Barra de Santiago and the Rio Grande of Sonsonate-Banderas watersheds are located.

U.S. Ambassador Charles L. Glazer, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Carlos Guerrero, USAID Deputy Mission Director Tully Cornick, Mayor of Izalco Carlos Alexis Portillo and Governor of Sonsonate Carlos Adalberto Lara presided over the ceremony. The event was also attended by other government officers, representatives of NGOs and mayor's offices, and members of the Legislative Assembly Environment Commission.

"There has been progress made throughout the world in conserving our environment. One great accomplishment is the growth of voluntary service that is dedicated to conserving our natural resources. We will recognize the spirit of volunteerism today in several groups and individuals who have carried out extraordinary efforts in conservation," said Ambassador Glazer before delivering recognition diplomas to people and institutions that have laboriously worked to conserve the environment in El Salvador.

The new USAID-MARN project is being implemented by Development Alternatives Incorporated (DAI), in alliance with SalvaNATURA and CLUSA El Salvador.

Earth Day was first celebrated in the United States on April 22, 1970. Since then, millions of people around the world have commemorated the day and have joined efforts to conserve the planet.

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